

January 12, 1974, Saturday

Dear Vicki and Jim,

I have had a case of the good old fashioned flu and have been in bed or semi in bed all week but am feeling better now, as about an hour ago, so I had a shower and got dressed. Dad has done a very good job of taking over the housework and cooking. When cleaning up the kitchen he even scrubbed the pots and pans and kept everything looking real good. It has been really nice having him at home.

Your letter came yesterday and I liked reading the article about Fairbanks, Alaska. It is hard to believe that it is so cold there that water will freeze before it hits the ground and just blow away in crystals. I am very happy that we are not packing up to move up there. I guess dad told you that Florence called us from Minneapolis and it was 36 degrees below zero there and a wind was blowing. Our weather has turned much warmer now and it is raining out. I like it better this way.

I am so glad you loved the trip to Europe. It is really wonderful that you are getting to do so many things. The Saturday in Washington D. C. sounded great too. That wine bottle shaped like a fish must be something special to have. I am glad you got to keep it.

It is really strange that you didn't hear from Howard Davis this year. Maybe you should write and ask why.

Monday was my brother Jim's birthday and today is Stella's and the 24th is mine and the 26th is aunt Ruth's. She will be 50 years old so the crowd she goes with in Enumclaw have rented a hall at the Moose lodge in Enumclaw for that Saturday night and having a party for her. The posters they sent out are really funny. It is Ruth's head fixed on a body of somebody else and, oh well I will save it to show it to you because it is so good. I suppose we will go but it doesn't sound good to me right now. It will be a wild one.

For uncle Jim's birthday she called up five couples at five in the afternoon and invited them over for dinner so they all dropped everything and arrived. Ruth ran up to the store then and picked up groceries and she made a meat-loaf about the size of a big turkey, plus other things, and she said by six-o'clock the walls were really shaking. She also said just about all of the meat loaf was eaten except for a small piece. She just loves parties and can do so much on the spur of the moment.

I expected Mary and Mike this week-end but haven't heard from them. It is just as well since I haven't been feeling good altho I feel much better now I want to just sit and watch television tonight and go to bed early.

Love, Mom.